

Message Text

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67

ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 CEQ-01 COA-01 COME-00 EB-07 EPA-01

NSF-01 OES-03 ACDA-05 AEC-05 AGR-05 DOTE-00 FMC-01

INT-05 JUSE-00 OMB-01 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-06 /128 W

----- 089645

R 171729Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5227

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

CINCEUR

CINCLANT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 4092

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, CA

SUBJECT: D/LOS-200 MILE FISHERIES LEGISLATION

REF: STATE 272852

1. SENATE ACTION ON BILL TO EXTEND US JURISDICTION
OVER COASTAL FISHERIES TO A DISTANCE OF 200 MILES HAS
RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION IN CANADA.

2. FOR EXAMPLE, TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL COLUMNIST
GEOFFREY STEVENS IN ARTICLE ENTITLED "SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS"
COMMENTED EXTENSIVELY ON BILL SAYING "IT COULD JEOPARDIZE
THE CHANCES OF REACHING AN INTERNATIONAL ACCORD" AT NEXT
LOS CONFERENCE. AFTER POINTING OUT THAT BILL DEALS ONLY
WITH FISHING AND IS NOT YET LAW, HE STATES THAT "THE TIMING
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OF THE SENATE ACTION... COULD NOT BE WORSE FOR ALL

THOSE COUNTRIES, INCLUDING CANADA, WHICH LOOK TO AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS... IF THERE IS ONE THING MOST DELEGATES HOPED AS THEY LEFT CARACAS...IT WAS THAT NO COUNTRY WOULD TRY TO GO IT ALONE...BECAUSE IF ONE COUNTRY MADE A MOVE, OTHERS WOULD BE SURE TO FOLLOW. FOR THE MOST PART, THE NATIONS HAVE DISPLAYED RESTRAINT."

3. STEVENS CONCLUDES THAT IF THE BILL BECOMES LAW IT WOULD POSE A "SERIOUS THREAT TO THE FRAGILE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION WHICH EMERGED AT CARACAS... IT WOULD ALSO FORCE THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO REASSESS ITS POSITION. IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR... THAT IMPATIENCE OF THE UNITED STATES... CANNOT BE HELD IN CHECK MUCH LONGER...." STEVENS THINKS THAT IF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE FAILS "THE ENSUING SCRAMBLE COULD MAKE THE COLONIALISM OF THE 19TH CENTURY LOOK LIKE CHILD'S PLAY." (TEXT OF ARTICLE BY POUCH TO D/LOS.)

4. THE US BILL ALSO RECEIVED ATTENTION IN CANADIAN PARLIAMENT WHERE A MEMBER OF HOUSE OF COMMONS ASKED "...WHY A SIMILAR ACTION WOULD NOT BE A USEFUL STAND AS A MEANS OF DEMONSTRATING CANADA'S RESOLVE TO GET AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT IN GENEVA AND WHY CANADA IS WAITING UNTIL NEXT MARCH TO TAKE A FIRM POSITION?" IN HIS REPLY, CANADIAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR FISHERIES ROMEO LEBLANC CITED EVIDENCE THAT "THERE IS CONSIDERABLE PESSIMISM REGARDING THE BILL'S PROSPECT AND SUCCESS" AND THAT THE SENATE WAS LOOKING FOR A WAY OF STRENGTHENING THE HAND OF US NEGOTIATORS. "I CAN SAY TO THE HONORABLE MEMBER THAT WE HAVE GIVEN A VERY FIRM AND STRONG INSTRUCTION TO OUR DELEGATION THAT WE WANT A 200-MILE ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT ZONE...."

5. SUBSEQUENTLY, ANOTHER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ASKED "IS THE MINISTER TAKING UP BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES WITH A VIEW TO TAKING BILATERAL ACTION IN EXTENDING THE LIMITS BOTH FOR THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT SOME SETTLEMENT OR AGREEMENT AT THE NEXT LOS CONFERENCE," MINISTER LEBLANC DODGED THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUESTION BY SAYING "THAT THE 200-MILE LIMIT WILL NOT SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS...."
PORTER

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Message Attributes

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